



# Café VEF Worship Service

(December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020)

\*Address: #2 Jiangong 1<sup>st</sup> Road, Hsinchu.

\*Website: [www.vefellowship.com](http://www.vefellowship.com)



<b>Call to Worship</b>	<b>Luke 2:1-7</b>
<b>Worship in Song</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	<b>Luke 2:8-21</b>
<b>Worship in Song</b>	<b>O Come All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be) He Shall Reign Forevermore</b>
<b>Mission Focus</b>	<b>Prayer</b>
<b>Announcements</b>	<b>Jims</b>
<b>Message</b> <i>"The Gift that Keeps on Giving"</i>	<b>John Olson</b> <b>Titus 2:11-14</b>
<b>Response Song</b>	<b>A Christmas Alleluia</b>
<b>Communion</b>	<b>John Olson</b>
<b>Benediction</b>	<b>John Olson</b>

## Questions for Group Discussion

1. What is something that you are thankful for this past week?
2. Do you have any questions about the message today?
3. What did God teach you?
4. Do you have any prayer requests?

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## Question: "Why is the Virgin Birth so important?"

<https://www.gotquestions.org/virgin-birth.html>

**Answer:** The doctrine of the virgin birth is crucially important ([Isaiah 7:14](#); [Matthew 1:23](#); [Luke 1:27, 34](#)). First, let's look at how Scripture describes the event. In response to Mary's question, "How will this be?" ([Luke 1:34](#)), Gabriel says, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" ([Luke 1:35](#)). The angel encourages Joseph to not fear marrying Mary with these words: "What is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit" ([Matthew 1:20](#)). Matthew states that the virgin "was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit" ([Matthew 1:18](#)). [Galatians 4:4](#) also teaches the Virgin Birth: "God sent His Son, born of a woman."

From these passages, it is certainly clear that Jesus' birth was the result of the Holy Spirit working within Mary's body. The immaterial (the Spirit) and the material (Mary's womb) were both involved. Mary, of course, could not impregnate herself, and in that sense she was simply a "vessel." Only God could perform the miracle of the Incarnation.

However, denying a physical connection between Mary and Jesus would imply that Jesus was not truly human. Scripture teaches that Jesus was fully human, with a physical body like ours. This He received from Mary. At the same time, Jesus was fully God, with an eternal, sinless nature ([John 1:14](#); [1 Timothy 3:16](#); [Hebrews 2:14-17](#).)

Jesus was not born in sin; that is, He had no sin nature ([Hebrews 7:26](#)). It would seem that the sin nature is passed down from generation to generation through the father ([Romans 5:12, 17, 19](#)). The Virgin Birth circumvented the transmission of the sin nature and allowed the eternal God to become a perfect man.

# Announcements

Praise God that Pastor Tom & Rhonda received their visas and passports back from the TECO office. They arrived in Taiwan last night. Pray that they are able to finish their quarantine period without any issues and adjust to life in Taiwan.

The government requires that masks be worn while we are at church. Please wear a mask while you are at church (only removing it to eat).

“Your Confirmation” is a Bible study led by Peter Park that meets on Sundays from 10:45-11:45 in B104.

## Last Sunday's (12/20)

- Morning worship attendance – 103
- Afternoon worship attendance – 49
- Children's Sunday school attendance – 41

How to pay tithes by Wire Transfer You can transfer your offerings to Victory's Postal account, the bank code is 700, follow by the account number - 0061021 0478485. Contact Pastor John at [vefpastor@gmail.com](mailto:vefpastor@gmail.com) or Yu-Hwa at [yhwang217@yahoo.com.tw](mailto:yhwang217@yahoo.com.tw). Please make sure to contact one of them to make sure the money goes into the VEF account and transfer was properly made.

## VEF Contact Information

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## Question: "Should we give gifts at Christmas?"

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Christmas-gifts.html>

**Answer:** Many people take the idea of gift giving at Christmas back to the scripture in [Matthew 2:10-11](#) which talks about the Magi (wise men) giving gifts to Jesus at his home: "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh."

The Bible gives a wonderful story about the gift God gave us—Jesus Christ—and we can use it as an opportunity to present the gospel and to show love. Giving and receiving gifts can be part of fulfilling what Paul says about giving in [2 Corinthians 8:7-8](#), "Just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others." Paul encouraged the churches to give financial gifts to the believers in need in Jerusalem and stressed that their gifts were to be voluntary and motivated by earnest love. We can apply this same lesson to our own lives by giving to others, not just at Christmas, but year-round!

So, can gift giving become the focus of Christmas instead of thanking the Lord for the gift of His Son ([John 3:16](#))? Absolutely! Does giving gifts have to take away from the true meaning of Christmas? No, it does not. If we focus on the wonderful gift of salvation the Lord has given us ([Isaiah 9:6](#)), giving to others is a natural expression of that gratitude. The key is our focus. Is your focus on the gift or on the ultimate gift-giver, our gracious Heavenly Father? "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights..." ([James 1:17](#)).